

April 28, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist HOS

RE: Mi Vida Mine, Minerals West Energy/Fuels, M/037/028, San Juan County, Utah

Scott Johnson and I visited the Mi Vida Mine site today, with Mr. Roger Smith and Mr. Bill Almas of Energy Fuels. The site inspection was conducted to evaluate the reclamation responsibilities of the operator. Energy Fuels is in the process of transferring the mine site from Minerals West Energy.

Currently a bond of \$15,773.00 exists on the site; however, the site is under 5 acres and that bond, upon transfer, will be returned to Minerals West. Mr. Smith had worked the site several years before and was the most familiar of the group as to which disturbances belong to Minerals West or Energy Fuels. The site is located in and amongst some other mine operations some being pre-law, some being more recent, making it difficult to distinguish between disturbance responsibilities. Before transferring the permit, Mr. Almas of Energy Fuels, wanted to make sure that all the permitting requirements were laid out on the table.

The first part of the site that we looked at, was the portion containing the old facilities that Charlie Steen used back in the 50's. These included an old mine shaft and head frame, an old soup kitchen and, more recently developed by Minerals West, a decline and associated waste dump. The decline, we will call the Mi Vida decline or the Minerals West decline. In this area, we agreed that the operator would reclaim the headframe and shaft, he would reclaim the Minerals West decline, and would do some reclamation work like rounding and contouring of the old waste dump. Also the concrete foundation of the Steen bunkhouse quarters will be buried by about 3 - 4 feet of fill material. We debated as to whether or not the old kitchen facility should be removed and decided to leave that pending a future decision. It could be termed a historical building of sorts; the State may decide to leave it and not have it reclaimed. Other portions of the site might be included in this exemption.

The second portion of the site that we looked at has to do with the original Mi Vida or Steen portal and is located just down the road west of the Minerals West portal. It's a large opening and will be reclaimed by the operator. The associated old stockpile area which Charlie Steen used for stockpiling his ore and then hauling it out, will not be reclaimed, as it is pre-law.



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A disturbed area associated with the site to the south of the Minerals West portal, is called the Big Buck Claim area. This area was mined by W.K. Enterprises, aka Bob Shumway. Mr. Shumway mined this area over the last couple of years; it is apparently inactive, a permit was never filed, the site has never been reclaimed. This site should not be associated with the area that Energy Fuels will be responsible for.

Further on, west down the road from the Steen or Mi Vida portal area is the McCormick tunnel or McCormick portal. This area has a large waste dump that is pre-law. It has a large metal bin or shoot that has been used post-law, and a large ore stockpiling pad that was also used post-law. According to the operator, this portion of the site is under Atlas ownership and is not part of the Minerals West operation. According to earlier information, this portion of the site did come under the Minerals West permit. This discrepancy must be worked out before Energy Fuels transfers the permit.

Another area of the mine, in the next canyon over from the area being discussed, is called the Expectation portal. This area has been mined recently and also comes under the responsibility of this permit.

According to one of Frank Filas' earlier memo's, this entire operation was being worked as recently as June of 1987.

Energy Fuels wants to develop a solution uranium mine at this site. Discussions were made during the inspection concerning areas that are pre-law that will be redisturbed. I informed Mr. Almas that any areas that were redisturbed would become the responsibility of Energy Fuels. We discussed the reclamation of the large metal shoot and associated rail track at the McCormick tunnel. Mr. Almas indicated his company wouldn't be willing to reclaim that either. I informed Mr. Almas that if the earlier permit included reclaiming these, then Energy Fuels would have to reclaim it.

Mr. Almas indicated that he would be putting together some updated maps with claim information on them and disturbed area boundaries on those maps as part of the new permit transfer.

jb  
cc: Bill Almas, Energy Fuels  
Lowell Braxton  
Scott Johnson  
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